HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION

95th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

THE GIRLS BEAT THE BOYS IN CIF-SS COMPETITION

Debbie Siewert – Alhambra High School
First Girl to Place in a CIF-SS Boys Championship
1974 Boys Diving – 3rd Place

Jane Ward – Long Beach Wilson High School
First Girl to Win a Boys CIF-SS Championship
1975 (4A) Boys Diving – 1st Place

The inclusion of girls in CIF-SS competition began in 1970 with a girls swimming meet. Many girls continued to participate on boy’s teams particularly in water polo and swimming. In 1974, Debbie Siewert became the first girl to win a CIF-SS medal in competition against the boys placing 3rd in the Boys CIF-SS Diving Championship. The following year, Jane Ward from Long Beach Wilson won the Boys CIF-SS Diving Championship becoming the first female CIF-SS Champion in competition with the boys (Siewert would take 5th in that competition).
Debbie Siewert on the Alhambra Swimming team

Jane Ward – Long Beach Wilson – 1975

Jane always played on the girl’s tennis team…back row 3rd from the left

Her boyfriend at Wilson was the famous swimmer Tim Shaw who would go onto to medal in both swimming and water polo in the Olympic Games…short quote from local Long Beach paper:

Still, Tim demands more to his life than swimming. “When I'm in the pool, I work,” he says, "but when I get out, I leave it all there." He surfs, skis, goes to parties and rock concerts and moons around his current girlfriend, Jane Ward, a champion diver

Jane Ward never got the Who's Jane Ward? The 17-year-old Wilson High student, is one of the United States' top 10 divers. Jane, a slender 5' 9" lass from the school. Staff photos by TOM SHAW (see Jane dive). Shy, "you want to do a story on me?" Easy going "although I'm intense in diving". She gained a measure, a very small note in most newspapers of notoriety, by becoming the first girl ever to win a "boys" CIF title, capturing the 4-A diving championship.